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U.S. Department of Homeland Security

Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services

ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS OFFICE

425 Eye Street N.W.
ULLB, 3rd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20536

PUBLIC COPY

[redacted]

File: [redacted] Office: VIENNA, AUSTRIA Date: APR 29 2003

IN RE: Applicant: [redacted]

Application: Application for Permission to Reapply for Admission into the United States after Deportation or Removal under Section 212(a)(9)(A)(iii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(A)(iii)

IN BEHALF OF APPLICANT: SELF-REPRESENTED

[redacted] deleted to prevent clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision in your case. All documents have been returned to the office that originally decided your case. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

If you believe the law was inappropriately applied or the analysis used in reaching the decision was inconsistent with the information provided or with precedent decisions, you may file a motion to reconsider. Such a motion must state the reasons for reconsideration and be supported by any pertinent precedent decisions. Any motion to reconsider must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider, as required under 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(i).

If you have new or additional information that you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reopen. Such a motion must state the new facts to be proved at the reopened proceeding and be supported by affidavits or other documentary evidence. Any motion to reopen must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reopen, except that failure to file before this period expires may be excused in the discretion of the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services (Bureau) where it is demonstrated that the delay was reasonable and beyond the control of the applicant or petitioner. *Id.*

Any motion must be filed with the office that originally decided your case along with a fee of $110 as required under 8 C.F.R. § 103.7.

Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

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DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the Officer in Charge, Vienna, Austria, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant, a native and citizen of Poland, was found to be inadmissible to the United States on April 14, 2000 under section 212(a)(6)(C)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(6)(C)(i), for having sought to procure admission into the United States by fraud or willful misrepresentation. Specifically, the applicant sought to procure admission into the United States by presenting a fraudulent Austrian passport that he had purchased in Poland for $1,000. On that same day, the applicant was removed from the United States pursuant to section 235(b)(1) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1225(B)(1).

The applicant is married to a citizen of the United States and seeks to enter the United States to reside with his spouse. He is unable to establish that he has remained outside of the United States for a period of five or more successive years subsequent to his removal and is, therefore, inadmissible to the United States under section 212(a)(9)(A)(i) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(A)(i). He seeks permission to reapply for admission into the United States under section 212(a)(9)(A)(iii) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(A)(iii), and a waiver of inadmissibility under section 212(i) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1882(i).

Service instructions at O.I. 212.7 specify that when an alien requires both permission to reapply for admission and a waiver of grounds of inadmissibility, the Application for Permission to Reapply for Admission into the United States after Deportation or Removal (Form I-212) will be adjudicated first. Service instructions also specify that if the Form I-212 application is denied, then the Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility (Form I-601) should be rejected.

The officer in charge denied the applicant's request for permission to reapply for admission into the United States as a matter of discretion and rejected the applicant's waiver application.

On appeal, the applicant's spouse, also a native of Poland, submits letters stating that she has known her husband for ten years and that they were married on March 30, 2001. She states that she lives in the United States with her father and two younger sisters and that her mother resides in Poland with a younger brother. She asserts that both of her parents are ill and that she finds it very difficult to financially support her family and that she needs the applicant in the United States to provide her with emotional and financial support.

In support of the appeal, the spouse submits documentation from a physician who treats both her and her father. The information provided indicates that the spouse suffers from depression, for

which she takes medication, and that her father has major depressive disorder; recurrent, moderate, and cognitive disorder; hypertension; unstable angina; and is status post cardiac catherization with stent placement. The physician concludes that the longer the applicant remains in Poland, the more serious will be the condition and hardship of his spouse.

Section 212(a)(9)(A) of the Act provides, in part, that:

> (i) Any alien who has been ordered removed under section 235(b)(1) or at the end of proceedings under section 240 initiated upon the alien's arrival in the United States and who again seeks admission within 5 years of the date of such removal (or within 20 years in the case of a second or subsequent removal or at any time in the case of an alien convicted of an aggravated felony) is inadmissible.
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> (ii) Any alien not described in clause (i) who-
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> > (I) has been ordered removed under section 240 of the Act or any other provision of law, or
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> > (II) departed the United States while an order of removal was outstanding, and who seeks admission within 10 years of the date of such alien's departure or removal (or within 20 years of such date in the case of a second or subsequent removal or at any time in the case of an alien convicted of an aggravated felony) is inadmissible.
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> (iii) Clauses (i) and (ii) shall not apply to an alien seeking admission within a period if, prior to the date of the alien's reembarkation at a place outside the United States or attempt to be admitted from foreign contiguous territory, the Attorney General has consented to the alien's reapplying for admission.

Section 212(a)(6)(B) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(6)(B), was amended by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRIRA) and is now codified as section 212(a)(9)(A)(i) and (ii). Section 212(a)(9)(A)(i) of the Act provides that aliens who have been ordered removed from the United States through expedited removal proceedings or removal proceedings initiated on the alien's arrival in the United States and who have actually been removed (or departed after such an order) are inadmissible for five years. Section 212(a)(9)(A)(ii) of the Act provides that aliens who have otherwise ordered removed, ordered deported under section 242 or 217 of the Act or ordered excluded under section 236 of the Act and who have actually been removed (or departed after such an order) are inadmissible for ten years.

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In IIRIRA, Congress imposed restrictions on benefits for aliens, enhanced enforcement and penalties for certain violations, eliminated judicial review of certain judgements or decisions under certain sections of the Act, created a new expedited removal proceeding, and established major new grounds of inadmissibility. Nothing could be clearer than Congress's desire in recent years to limit, rather than to extend, the relief available to aliens who have violated immigration law. Congress has almost unfettered power to decide which aliens may come to and remain in this country. This power has been recognized repeatedly by the Supreme Court. *See Fiallo v. Bell*, 430 U.S. 787 (1977); *Reno v. Flores*, 507 U.S. 292 (1993); *Kleindienst v. Mandel*, 408 U.S. 753, 766 (1972). *See also Matter of Yeung*, 21 I&N Dec. 610, 612 (BIA 1997).

It is appropriate to examine the basis of a removal as well as an applicant's general compliance with immigration and other laws. Evidence of serious disregard for law is viewed as an adverse factor. Family ties in the United States are an important consideration in deciding whether a favorable exercise of discretion is warranted. *Matter of Acosta*, 14 I&N Dec. 361 (D.D. 1973).

The Service, following more recent judicial decisions and the Congressional amendments, has accorded less weight to an applicant's equities gained following the commencement of removal proceedings, if the equities were gained while the applicant was unlawfully present in the United States or after a violation of law. The statute provides in section 240 of the Act, 8 U.S.C 1229, for the consideration of a certain amount of continuous physical presence in the United States for aliens seeking cancellation of removal. The present applicant is not seeking cancellation of removal.

The court held in *Garcia-Lopez v. INS*, 923 F.2d 72 (7th Cir. 1991), that less weight is given to equities acquired after a deportation order has been entered. Further, the equity of a marriage and the weight given to any hardship to the spouse is diminished if the parties married after the commencement of deportation proceedings, with knowledge that the alien might be deported. *Ghassan v. INS*, 972 F.2d 631 (5th Cir. 1992), *cert. denied*, 507 U.S. 971 (1993). It is also noted that the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in *Carnalla-Muñoz v. INS*, 627 F.2d 1004 (9th Cir. 1980), held that after-acquired equities, referred to as "after-acquired family ties" in *Matter of Tijam*, 22 I&N Dec. 408 (BIA 1998), need not be accorded great weight by the district director in considering discretionary weight. The applicant in the present matter sought to procure admission into the United States by fraud in April 2000 and was removed. He subsequently married a citizen of the United States in March 2001.

Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1361, provides that the burden of proof is upon the applicant to establish that he is eligible for

the benefit sought. The applicant now seeks relief based on his equity (marriage) gained after having been removed from the United States. After a careful review of the record, it is concluded that the applicant has failed to establish that a favorable exercise of the Attorney General's discretion is warranted. Accordingly, the decision of the officer in charge to deny the Form I-212 application and reject the Form I-601 application will be affirmed.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.